CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method comprising:

requesting identification keys of archived data objects to be deleted from a

database;   /

deleting at least one data object identified in response to the request for the

identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of data objects to be

deleted.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the archived data objects include one or more

records of business data.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein deleting at least one data object comprises

receiving at least one identification key corresponding to the at least one data object to

be deleted.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one identification key is selected

based on system administrator configurable parameters.

5.   The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one identification key is selected

from a plurality of unlocked identification keys.

6.   The method of claim 3 wherein the at least one identification key is selected

based on logical partitions.

7.   The method of claim 3 wherein the system administrator configurable parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of identification keys to be returned in response to the request for the identification keys.

8.   The method of claim 1 further comprising confirming content of the at least one data object to be deleted prior to the deleting the at least one data object.

9.   The method of claim 8 further comprising deducing location of the content of the at least one data object to be deleted from an identification key associated with the at least one data object.

10.   The method of claim 1 wherein deleting at least one data object is performed by a delete job.

11.   The method of claim 10 wherein a plurality of delete jobs are performed in parallel.

12.   The method of claim 3 further comprising locking the at least one identification key of the at least one data object being deleted.

13.   The method of claim 1 further comprising deleting identification keys of deleted objects upon receipt of a confirmation of deletion.

14.   The method of claim 1 wherein the archived data objects to be deleted from the database are data objects specified by a system administrator to be archived.

15.   A method comprising:

        archiving data objects selected by a system administrator in archived

data files;

        assigning identification keys to the archived data objects;

        receiving a request for identification keys of the archived data objects

to be deleted from a database, selecting identification keys of archived data

objects to be deleted based on system administrator configurable parameters

and locking the selected identification keys;

        deleting archived data objects corresponding to the received

identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of archived

data objects to be deleted; and

        deleting the identification keys of the deleted archived data objects

upon receipt of a confirmation of deletion.

16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the system administrator configurable

parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of data objects to be

deleted by a single delete job.

17.   The method of claim 15 wherein the system administrator configurable

parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of identification keys

to be selected in response to the request for the identification keys.

18.   The method of claim 15 wherein the deleting the archived data objects

corresponding to the received identification keys is performed by a delete job.

19.   The method of claim 18 wherein a plurality of delete jobs are performed in parallel.

20.   The method of claim 15 further comprising confirming content of the archived data objects corresponding to the received identification keys prior to the deleting the archived data objects.

21.   The method of claim 20 further comprising deducing location of the content of the archived data objects from the received identification keys.

22.   An apparatus comprising:

        a delete module to request identification keys of archived data objects to be deleted from a database;

        a data archival module to select identification keys based on system administrator configurable parameters in response to a request from the delete module;

        the delete module to receive the selected identification keys and to delete data objects corresponding to the received identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of data objects to be deleted.

23.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the administrator configurable parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of identification keys to be selected in response to a request for identification keys.

24.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the delete module further comprises a delete program to execute a delete job to delete the data objects corresponding to the received identification keys.

25.   The apparatus of claim 24 wherein a plurality of delete jobs are performed in parallel.

26.   The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the data archival module further to select the identification keys randomly from a plurality of unlocked identification keys.

27.   The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the data archival module further to select the identification keys based on logical partitions.

28.   An apparatus comprising:

    means for requesting identification keys of archived data objects to be deleted from a database;

    means for deleting at least one data object identified in response to a request for the identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of data objects to be deleted.

29.   The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the means for deleting at least one data object comprise the means for receiving at least one identification key selected based on system administrator configurable parameters, the received at least one identification key corresponds to the at least one data objects to be deleted.

30.   The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the at least one identification key is selected randomly from a plurality of unlocked identification keys.

31.   The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the at least one identification key is selected based on logical partitions.

32.   The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the system administrator configurable parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of identification keys to be selected in response to a request for identification keys.

33.   The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising means for confirming content of the at least one data object to be deleted prior to deletion of the at least one data object.

34.   The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising means for deducing location of the content of the at least one data object to be deleted from an identification key associated with the at least one data object.

35.   An article of manufacture comprising:

        a storage medium having stored therein instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause a processing system to perform a method comprising:

        requesting identification keys of archived data objects to be deleted from a database;

deleting at least one data object identified in response to a request for the
identification keys while requesting additional identification keys of data objects to be
deleted.

36. The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the instructions, which when
executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method
wherein the deleting at least one data object comprises receiving at least one
identification key selected based on system administrator configurable parameters, the
received at least one identification key corresponds to the at least one data objects to
be deleted.

37. The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the instructions, which when
executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method
wherein the at least one identification key is selected randomly from a plurality of
unlocked identification keys.

38. The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the instructions, which when
executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method
wherein the at least one identification key is selected based on logical partitions.

39. The article of manufacture of claim 35 wherein the system administrator
configurable parameters include a parameter specifying a maximum number of
identification keys to be selected in response to a request for identification keys.